

She was among a handful of people in those early days of the epidemic who managed to get us to the right level of urgency. One, obviously, was Surgeon General C. Everett Koop. Another was Tony Fauci at NIH.

But many people got their most memorable information from an unexpected source—Elizabeth Taylor. Beginning with her concern for her friends who were sick, she became an ambassador for people living with AIDS, for their doctors, and for AIDS research. When the Reagan White House was refusing even to acknowledge that tens of thousands of Americans were sick and dying, she went public.

To those who would shun our fellow citizens with HIV/AIDS, Elizabeth Taylor literally embraced them—showing us how to respond to a terrible illness that exacted a relentless toll on millions.

And so it was Elizabeth Taylor who called us to account every day, as individuals and as a society, for the humanity of those with HIV/AIDS.

Working with Dr. Mathilde Krim, Elizabeth Taylor championed the American Foundation for AIDS Research, a group that advocated for AIDS research and found funding for research that no one else was financing—functions it serves to this day.

To her enduring credit, Ms. Taylor leveraged her unique celebrity to speak truth to power, going to the media, the Administration, and Congress to urge ongoing attention and funding to the epidemic.

She testified before the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the House Commerce Committee about the need for research, prevention, education and treatment and about the Congress' responsibilities to find funds for them. Her efforts helped seal public support for the 1990 Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act.

She was a movie star. But she used her star power to do something that scientists, doctors, and public health officials could not have accomplished on their own. She made the nation stop, look, listen, and understand what was at stake for those with HIV/AIDS and for us as a society.

In this way, Elizabeth Taylor helped motivate us to start doing needed work.

For that we owe her more than movie-star fame. She may be remembered most for her screen roles. But it was her living role as a healer for which we owe Elizabeth Taylor a debt of profound gratitude—for lives improved and lives saved, for advances in treatment and prevention, and for the hope of one day finding a cure for HIV/AIDS.

SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI'S VISION

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud those who are leading America toward equality and equity for all people—and, especially, to commend Maryland's Senior Senator, BARBARA MIKULSKI.

As a father, my greatest hope is for the continued social progress that will allow my daughters to achieve the full measure of their

dreams. That is why, during Women's History Month each year, I am thinking more about our future than about our past.

Recently, President Obama, also the father of two daughters, expressed the same perspective.

"While enormous progress has been made," he observed, "there is still work to be done before women achieve true parity."

His observation is backed up by "kitchen table" economics. When women are not treated fairly, their families suffer as a result.

One would think that the concept of equal pay for equal work is so American that it would already be a "done deal" in this country. Yet, we know that equal pay is not yet a reality.

Family hardships result from the harsh reality that women, on average, make just 77 cents for every dollar earned by men in comparable jobs (just 69 cents if you are an African American woman—and 59 cents if you are a Latina woman).

Last week, Senator MIKULSKI was afforded another opportunity to remind everyone of this still-to-be-achieved civil rights goal as we participated in an event honoring Lilly Ledbetter, the woman whose Supreme Court equal opportunity case led to the "Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009."

As she was applauding Ms. Ledbetter for the courage and determination she had shown fighting for fair pay, I had the opportunity to reflect on BARBARA MIKULSKI's vision for America—and upon all that she has achieved in public life.

Maryland's senior Senator is a remarkable human being—and a person I am honored to call my friend.

When I first entered the Congress after a Special Election in 1996, BARBARA was there for me, helping us to get our office up and running as quickly as possible so no one in Maryland's 7th Congressional District would lack representation.

I have never forgotten that kindness. It was a practical demonstration of the same human compassion that BARBARA MIKULSKI has offered to tens of thousands of Marylanders over the years.

It is why she has become a national leader—and why her colleagues in the Senate have supported her work and leadership on two of its most prestigious committees: Appropriations and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

We all have an interest in women and their families receiving fair pay for the work that they perform. Maryland's Senior Senator was one of the essential leaders in our efforts to enact the Affordable Care Act, as well as the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Yet, despite the national prominence that she has achieved, "Senator BARB" has never lost that candor, honesty and strength that are so typical of the Highlandtown of her youth.

In her family's grocery store, she learned the challenges faced by working families. Then, as a social worker, she perfected the skills that she needed to become an effective leader in our cause.

Today, I doubt whether there is a single person in our home State of Maryland who does not know what Senator MIKULSKI stands for. Her progressive values are solid and clear. We know that she is going to fight for all of us every single day.

Less well known, however, is BARBARA MIKULSKI's lifetime vision of bringing all of Amer-

ica's working families together in support of progressive change. It is a dream that ties together her roots in Highlandtown with my own South and West Baltimore heritage: "Unfortunately, because of old prejudices and new fears," she observed back in 1970, "anger is generated [within European ethnic communities] against other minority groups rather than those who have power. What is needed is an alliance of white and black, white collar, blue collar and no collar based upon mutual need, interdependence and respect—an alliance to develop the strategy for new kinds of community organization and political participation."

All Americans are better off for our progress toward achieving BARBARA MIKULSKI's dream—and the movement toward a better America that her dream sustains.

LIZBETH BLANCO-RAMOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos is a 12th grader at Warren Tech North and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lizbeth Blanco-Ramos for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during rollcall votes on H. Con. Res. 28 and H.R. 1076. Had I been present, I would have voted against both of these bills.

HONORING MR. JONATHAN SMALLS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 29, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, a tenacious man from Frogmore, South Carolina utilizes his gifts, talents and wisdom everyday to insure that veterans and